

I am unable to attend the hearing; please accept this as my testimony:

I am a Catholic with a Catholic school education (elementary through university). Like many Catholics in Connecticut I have been contacted by my bishop (Diocese of Norwich) to urge you to reject HB 5326 by voting NO.

I urge you to vote YES.

The idea of ending my life by my own hand is an unthinkable violation of my conscience. The long-standing teaching of my church regarding suicide for any reason, along with common sense, drives my thought.

Yet, what's right for me should not and cannot be the rule for everybody.

There are surely circumstances where compassionate aid for a dying person is acceptable and justified and no violation of any thinking person's conscience. No organization's rules (religious, political or otherwise) should hinder such aid if performed under the procedures outlined in HB 5326.

My understanding is that, as it now stands, a crime is committed if a doctor prescribes/administers medication which results in a patient's death. HB 5326 is needed to de-criminalize such conduct.

An argument can be made that Hospice and proper palliative care is a desirable alternative to compassionate aid for the dying. I agree; both seem the common sense way when life is ending and certainly far more desirable than suicide under any circumstances. But nobody can anticipate all of the circumstances a patient might face near end of life.

Simply stated, state law should allow for compassionate aid for a dying person. No organization's laws should prevent Connecticut citizens from exercising this basic individual right.

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